



Gear up for summer vacations and road trips!
Follow these easy driving tips
to get the most mileage out of your vehicle – and save money -
while reducing carbon dioxide emissions at the same time.



Drive Efficiently

Avoid Idling: If you're going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds,

turn the engine off—you'll get 5-20% more miles on a tank of gas. 2 min. idling = 1 mile driving. Avoiding idling also improves air quality. Every gallon of gas saved keeps 19 pounds of CO₂ out of the atmosphere.

Learn the Myths and Facts: <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/APCD/Idling/MythsAndFacts.htm>

Slow Down: Above 60 mph, gas mileage drops rapidly. For every 5 mpg above 60 mph, it's like paying an additional \$0.24 per gallon of gasoline. To calculate your savings visit, **What is the speed penalty for my vehicle?**

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.jsp>

Drive Sensibly: Rapid acceleration, hard braking and speeding can lower your highway mileage by 33 % and city mileage by 5%.

Combine Errands: Several short trips, each one taken from a cold start, can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.

Lighten Up: Avoid keeping unnecessary heavy items in your trunk. An extra 100 pounds could reduce your MPG by up to 2%.

Avoid Hauling Cargo on Your Roof: A loaded roof rack can decrease fuel economy as much as 25% at speeds over 65 mph. US DOE recommends a rear-mount box and don't forget to remove it when not in use.

Maintain and Save



Regardless of the age and type of vehicle you drive, keeping it in top condition makes a significant difference in its fuel-efficiency.

Tire Pressure: Check tire pressure once a month – properly inflating your tires can boost your gas mileage 3%.

Motor Oil: Using worn-out oil, or the wrong grade of oil, can increase fuel use by 2%. Change it regularly with the grade listed in your owners' manual.

Air Filter: Fuel use can increase up to 10% when the air filter is clogged, because not enough air makes it to the combustion chambers. Check it on the same schedule as you change the oil, or more often if you travel on dusty roads.

Tune Ups: Keeping your vehicle in tune can reduce fuel consumption by up to 15% and smog causing emissions by even more. Follow the schedule in your owners' manual.

Check Engine Light: Don't ignore—it can alert you to problems that affect fuel economy as well as more serious problems, even when your vehicle seems to be running fine.

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